AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A delay time adjusting method of adjusting a delay time of an input signal so that a phase of said input signal and a phase of an output signal match each other, ~~based on a comparison between phases of said input signal and said output signal,~~ the method comprising the ~~step~~ steps of:

~~increasing the delay time in response to a signal which indicates a start of adjusting the delay time to adjust said phase of said output signal.~~

comparing phases of said output signal and said input signal with each other; and

starting an increase of the delay time at any time when a phase difference is detected in the step of comparing.

2. (Original) The delay time adjusting method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a step of producing said output signal by delaying said input signal by a DLL circuit.

3. (Currently Amended) A delay time adjusting method ~~of adjusting a delay time of an input first periodic signal so that a phase of said input first periodic signal and a phase of an output second periodic signal match each other based on a comparison between phases of said input first periodic signal and said input second periodic signal, the method~~ comprising ~~the step of~~:

comparing the phases of an input first periodic signal and an input second periodic signal;

adjusting a delay time of the input first periodic signal so that a phase of the input first periodic signal and a phase of an output second periodic signal match within a predetermined tolerance, wherein

~~adjusting said delay time so that,~~ when a phase of a predetermined rising edge of said output second periodic signal is behind a phase of a predetermined rising edge of said input first periodic signal, said delay time is adjusted so that said predetermined rising edge of said output second periodic signal matches a rising edge of said input first periodic signal, a phase of the rising edge being behind and nearest to said phase of said predetermined rising edge of said output second periodic signal, and wherein the adjusting of said delay ~~is~~ at an initial stage of the adjusting is to increase said delay irrespective of said comparison when starting the step of adjusting of said delay.

4. (Currently Amended) A delay time adjusting method of adjusting a delay time of an input first periodic signal so that a phase of said input first periodic signal and a phase of an output second periodic signal match each other based on a comparison between phases of said input first periodic signal and said input second periodic signal, the method comprising:

a first step of judging whether a phase of a predetermined rising edge of said output second periodic signal is behind a phase of a first rising edge of said input first periodic signal; and

a second step of increasing the delay time to adjust said phase of said output second periodic signal so that, when said phase of said predetermined rising edge is judged to be behind said phase of said first rising edge in said first step, said phase of

said predetermined rising edge and a phase of a second rising edge of said input first periodic signal match each other, the second rising edge being one period behind said first rising edge, wherein the ~~steps~~ step of ~~judging and~~ delaying ~~are~~ at an initial stage of adjustment is to increase the delay time irrespective of said comparison when starting the delay time adjustment.

5. (Previously Presented) A delay time adjusting circuit for adjusting a delay time of an input signal so that a phase of said input signal and a phase of an output signal match each other between phases based on a comparison of said input signal and said output signal, the circuit comprising:

detecting means for detecting a phase difference between said phase of said input signal and said phase of said output signal; and

delaying means for increasing a delay time of said phase of said output signal irrespective of said detection of phase difference when starting the delay time adjustment until said phase difference becomes N periods, where N is an integer other than zero.

6. (Currently Amended) A delay time adjusting circuit for adjusting a delay time of an input first periodic signal so that a phase of said input first periodic signal and a phase of an output second periodic signal match each other based on a comparison between phases of said input first periodic signal and said input second periodic signal, the circuit comprising:

judging means for judging whether a phase of a predetermined rising edge of said output second periodic signal is behind a phase of a predetermined rising edge of said input first periodic signal; and

delaying means for adjusting said delay time so that, when said phase of said predetermined rising edge of said output second periodic signal is judged to be behind said phase of said predetermined rising edge of said input first periodic signal by said judging means, said predetermined rising edge of said output second periodic signal matches a rising edge of said input first periodic signal, a phase of the rising edge being behind and nearest to said phase of said predetermined rising edge of said output second periodic signal, wherein the ~~steps~~ step of ~~judging and~~ delaying ~~are~~ at an initial stage of adjustment is to increase the delay time irrespective of said comparison when starting the delay time adjustment.

7. (Currently Amended) A delay time adjusting circuit for adjusting a delay time of an input first periodic signal so that a phase of said input first periodic signal and a phase of an output second periodic signal match each other based on a comparison between phases of said input first periodic signal and said input second periodic signal, the circuit comprising:

delaying means for delaying said input first periodic signal so as to generate said output second periodic signal;

phase-detecting means for detecting whether a phase of a predetermined rising edge of said output second periodic signal is behind a phase of a first rising edge of said input first periodic signal; and

adjusting means for controlling said delaying means so that, when said phase of said predetermined rising edge is judged to be behind said phase of said first rising edge by said phase-detecting means, said delaying means delays said phase of said output second periodic signal until said phase of said predetermined rising edge and a phase of a second rising edge of said input first periodic signal match each other, the second rising edge being one period behind said first rising edge, wherein the ~~steps~~ step of delaying~~, phase-detecting and adjusting are~~ at an initial stage of adjustment is to increase the delay time irrespective of ~~the~~ said comparison when starting the delay time adjustment.

8. (Original) The delay time adjusting circuit as claimed in claim 7, wherein said adjusting means controls said delaying means so that, after said phase of said predetermined rising edge and said phase of said second rising edge match each other, said phase of said predetermined rising edge and said phase of said second rising edge match each other all the time within a tolerable range.